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## TUNABLE AND MEMORY METAMATERIALS

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

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12/02/2015  
Final Report

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Air Force Research Laboratory  
AF Office Of Scientific Research (AFOSR)/ RTB1  
Arlington, Virginia 22203  
Air Force Materiel Command

<b>REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE</b>					Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 06-12-2015		2. REPORT TYPE Final Performance		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 15-08-2010 to 14-08-2015		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE TUNABLE AND MEMORY METAMATERIALS				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
				5b. GRANT NUMBER FA9550-10-1-0449		
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 61102F		
6. AUTHOR(S) Dimitri Basov				5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
				5e. TASK NUMBER		
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO 9500 GILMAN DR DEPT 621, OFFICE OF CONTRACT & GRANT ADMIN. 09 LA JOLLA, CA 92093-0621 US				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AF Office of Scientific Research 875 N. Randolph St. Room 3112 Arlington, VA 22203				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) AFRL/AFOSR RTB1		
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT A DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED: PB Public Release						
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES						
14. ABSTRACT <p>This program explored novel approaches to overcome common limitations of infrared metamaterials in order to achieve low electromagnetic losses and broad tunability of the electromagnetic response. One direction of the proposed work was to implement graphene-based metamaterials. A complimentary direction of research was focused on the development and exploration of hybrid metamaterials with reconfigurable properties at the level of individual cells operating at infrared frequencies. The proposed hybrid metamaterial, combining split ring resonators with phase change materials, enabled convenient adjustments of the refraction index profile across the area of the metamaterial.</p>						
15. SUBJECT TERMS MEMORY, MATAMATERIALS						
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Dimitri Basov	
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code) 858-822-1211	
Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	UU			

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8/98)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

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### **Tunable and Memory Metamaterials**

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The goal of this research program is to explore novel approaches towards overcoming common limitations of presently available infrared metamaterials including: low electromagnetic losses and broad tunability of the electromagnetic response. The PI has investigated various schemes for implementation of graphene-based metamaterials. One outcome of this work is that plasmonic-based approaches were established to be most beneficial for realization of graphene-based metamaterials [Nature 487 82 (2012)]. The PI has succeeded to visualize surface plasmons in graphene using infrared nanoscopy. These experiments revealed strong confinement of surface plasmons in graphene and also the ability of these plasmons to propagate over sub-micron distances. Critical assessment of plasmonic figures of merit carried out by the PI shows that graphene meets and surpasses some of the benchmark characteristics of all-metals plasmonics.

Another direction of research was focused on the development and exploration of hybrid metamaterials with reconfigurable properties at the level of individual cells operating in infrared frequencies. The PI has systematically investigated hybrid structures combining split ring resonators with phase change materials. The PI has been able to achieve gradients of the index across hybrid wafers with substantial variation of the properties on the length scales of the order of the wavelength. An experimental precondition for this latter finding was the design and fabrication of a versatile THz microscope. The PI has demonstrated the ability to produce controlled gradients of the refractive index suitable for steering microwave and THz beams [APL 102, 224103 (2013)].

In 2014 our group reported for the first time an observation of propagating phonon polaritons in a layered material: hexagonal boron nitride (hBN). Our measurements demonstrated that hBN is a natural hyperbolic material. This discovery [Science 343, 1125 (2014)] has triggered an enormous interest and numerous follow up studies.

Right panels: One reason behind a wide-spread interest in hyperbolic materials is the ability of these systems for “perfect lens”-type focusing of infrared radiation. We demonstrated this capability using a slab of hBN (schematics of the experiment is on the bottom right). We achieved  $\lambda/33$  focusing: the highest figure of merit ever reported for any hyperbolic medium. This work has appeared in Nature Communications 6, Article number: 6963 doi:10.1038/ncomms7963 (2015)

Finally, we have fabricated hybrid graphene/hBN structures and proposed a new concept of a van der Waals polaritonic metamaterial. In these structures plasmon polaritons of graphene hybridize with phonon polaritons of hBN. The hybrid polaritons

possess combined virtues from plasmons in graphene and phonon polaritons in hBN. Therefore, G-hBN structures fulfill the definition of the electromagnetic metamaterial since the attained property of these devices is not revealed by its constituent elements. Our results uncover a practical approach for realization of agile nano-photonic metamaterials by exploiting the interaction of distinct types of polaritonic modes hosted by different constituent layers of van der Waals heterostructures [Nature Nanotechnology 10, 682 (2015)].

1.

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Final Report

**Primary Contact E-mail****Contact email if there is a problem with the report.**

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**Primary Contact Phone Number****Contact phone number if there is a problem with the report**

858-534-5851

**Organization / Institution name**

The Regents of the University of California; University of California, San Diego.

**Grant/Contract Title****The full title of the funded effort.**

Tunable and Memory Metamaterials

**Grant/Contract Number****AFOSR assigned control number. It must begin with "FA9550" or "F49620" or "FA2386".**

FA9550-10-1-0449

**Principal Investigator Name****The full name of the principal investigator on the grant or contract.**

Professor Dimitri Bassov

**Program Manager****The AFOSR Program Manager currently assigned to the award**

Dr. Harold Weinstock

**Reporting Period Start Date**

08/15/2010

**Reporting Period End Date**

08/14/2015

**Abstract**

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**Archival Publications (published) during reporting period:**

**Changes in research objectives (if any):**

**Change in AFOSR Program Manager, if any:**

**Extensions granted or milestones slipped, if any:**

**AFOSR LRIR Number**

**LRIR Title**

**Reporting Period**

**Laboratory Task Manager**

**Program Officer**

**Research Objectives**

**Technical Summary**

**Funding Summary by Cost Category (by FY, \$K)**

	Starting FY	FY+1	FY+2
Salary			
Equipment/Facilities			
Supplies			
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